



# AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

## TASK FORCE 76

# U.S. SEVENTH FLEET

Volume 1, Issue 2

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### A Strong start to 2013

Dear Task Force 76 Family,

I am truly excited about 2013. As we look into the weeks and months to come, we will be busy.

Many of our staff members are participating in Exercise Cobra Gold 13 in Thailand. Several other exercises are planned throughout the year that will take us and our units to the farthest reaches of our area of responsibility.

Two of our ships will undergo Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) inspections to report back to Congress on their material warfighting readiness. And we as a staff will undergo training toward our certification as an Expeditionary Strike Group.

We cannot forget about the unplanned events that also may impact out plans and schedules.

An example of this was the grounding of USS Guardian last month. Your overwhelming response and support to the incident assured the chain of command that we were ready and able to provide the resources necessary to protect the crew and remain engaged as long as necessary.

Even though we as a command will be constantly on the move, there are plans in the works to bring us closer together as a staff and as a family.

We are planning a Family Day Cruise and will be joined by families of our counterparts on the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade staff. This will be a way to share our amphibious roots and help our families understand a little more about what it is we do at sea.

The Family Readiness Group (FRG) is up and running, and has several events planned. You can find details and FRG contact information in this issue, and I encourage you to join and help this new organization support our families.

We celebrated our 70th birthday on January 10th, which reminded us of our proud history and heritage, strengthened our character and resilience in the Pacific theater, and reinforced the strategic importance of our jobs which we could not do without the gracious support of our families.

Jeff Harley  
Rear Admiral

### Time Critical Risk Management

Time Critical Risk Management (TCRM) is a process of mitigating risk and improving your situational awareness and performance, it prepares you for situations where it may be necessary to make decision or communicate with others in a time-critical, high stress environment, during high-tempo operations, or off duty activities.

The ABCD Model consists of mnemonics, icons, resource blocks and a three colored target. The process is taken from the Volant Model which provides a visualization of the process and tools that improve performance.

**The Target:** A red-yellow-green

indicator representing risk.

**Green:** Your situational awareness is good, with the ability to see things that may effect your goals and projected outcome. Errors and problems are caught early and dealt with easily.

Resources in place and communication lines are open.

**Yellow:** Gaps in your situational awareness, which increase risk factors or lack of resources creates holes that increase the potential for error. How you balance risk with your overall objectives may require some re-prioritizing.

**Red:** A danger that situational awareness has focused down into tunnel vision. There is a danger of serious error or not accomplishing your objectives.

You may need to re-evaluate goals.

The **ABCDs:** Are the actions performed to improve operational effectiveness and reduce risk. **A**ssess situation, **B**alance resources, **C**ommunicate to others, **D**o and **D**ebrief the events. These are fundamental skills (situational awareness, decision making, communication and active learning skills) our Sailors are learning in Recruit Training Command (RTC) and leadership embraces as our organization continues to evolve in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. So remember TCRM!



CMDCM Donald Davis



USS BONHOMME RICHARD  
steams out of Sasebo Harbor to  
rendezvous with the rest of the  
ARG on deployment.  
(MC3 Adam Wainright)

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## 70 years Amphibiosity 1943 - 2013

The Seventh Amphibious Force was known as the Amphibious Force, Southwest Pacific. On Dec. 15, 1942 Rear Adm. Daniel E. Barbey received orders from Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet, to establish this force and he assumed command on Jan. 10, 1943.

Rear Adm. Jeffrey A. Harley, commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet addressed Sailors and Marines about the history of the amphibious fleet and the significant contributions of our amphibious forces to the Pacific region during the past 70 years. "We are proud of our history and heritage," said Harley "our

legacy throughout the past seven decades has brought peace and stability to this region."

During World War II Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet participated in every assault landing in the Southwest Pacific and took part in the occupation landings following the successful completion of the war.

Since then, the assigned forward deployed naval assets have participated in every major conflict, conducted multi-lateral exercises supporting the cooperative engagement strategy and provided humanitarian assistance to strengthen our bond with our coalition partners.

"We recognize that security and stability are forged in these partnerships," said Harley "We must continue our commitment to our allies and partners in the Pacific."

Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet is responsible for conducting expeditionary warfare operations supporting a full range of theater contingencies including humanitarian and disaster relief operations and full combat operations to help maintain peace and stability and protect our vital interests in the Pacific.



RDML Harley and OSCM Bauman cut the cake celebrating Amphibious Force U.S. SEVENTH Fleet's 70th Birthday.  
(YN2 Ashli DeFrates)

### Command Ombudsmen

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## Stopping the loss of your Personally Identifiable Information

Spear phishing is the practice of using fraudulent emails to gain access to personal information for the purpose of identity theft. The term phishing was coined because of the way that criminals try to gain access to personal information – basically, they cast out a bunch of bait in the form of fraudulent emails, and wait to see who bites. A spear phishing email usually includes a link that leads

to a spoofed, or fake, web site that requests personal information. It all looks very legitimate, and sometimes even the experts are fooled by spear phishing emails. When the recipient of the message clicks through the link they're taken to a page on the Web that looks so legitimate it can be hard for even seasoned security professionals to tell it's a setup. There is good news. At

this time, spear phishing attacks seem to be limited to corporate targets. Nearly all of the spear phishing complaints that have been investigated have come from corporate employees. Please be careful of emails requesting personal or account information so you won't fall victim to a scam.

## Planning for the Road Ahead

We've all seen news reports about "the fiscal cliff" and "sequestration."

As military members, we remember that the Navy takes no position on political questions; we as military members are not to express political views while in a duty status. Our response to these issues is to plan ahead as best we can for an uncertain fiscal future and to use our scarce resources carefully.

But there's a broader perspective: as citizens, we ought to be concerned and we ought to stay informed about these questions that certainly will affect our country and our way of life in the days ahead. As citizens, we ought to participate fully in public life by engaging others in substantive discussions about these issues (while not in a duty status),

in contacting our elected officials about public policy, and in voting. But there's an even broader perspective: as children of God, we recognize that earthly life and everything about it is *contingent*—nothing in this world lasts forever, including us. We can plan and prepare for the future all we want—and we ought to—but at the end of the day we're not in control of our lives... God is. He decided when our life would begin, and he keeps us in existence at every moment. We depend upon him for every breath we take. Every beat of our heart, every moment of our life, is a gift from him. It is unrealistic to take anything—even life itself—for granted. If even the smallest things are beyond our control, why should we worry about bigger things?

An old expression says, "God helps those who help themselves." We must do our part: we must prepare and review plans and schedules, we must attend meetings, prepare and review budgets, instructions, proposals, FITREPs, and Evals. But after we've done all we can do, we *must* be able to put our work in the hands of God and say, "Lord, I've done everything I can do... it's up to you now."

Pope John XXIII prayed a beautiful prayer before he went to bed every night: "Lord, it's your Church... I'm going to bed." Let's do what's humanly possible, and then put things in God's hands. Happy New Year... may you have peace of mind throughout 2013.

CDR Bill Muhm,  
CHC



BM2 Mandela Gbieor monitors an SH-60F as it prepares to take off from USS BLUE RIDGE (MC2 Jeff Troutman)

## Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet Participates in Cobra Gold 13

The forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) joined its sister ships USS Germantown (LSD 42) and USS Tortuga (LSD 46) off the coast of Thailand to take part in exercise Cobra Gold 2013 (CG 13), Feb. 10.

Cobra Gold is a Thai-U.S. co-sponsored multinational joint exercise that includes forces from the U.S., Kingdom of Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

The exercise is designed to demonstrate the ability of the involved militaries to rapidly deploy a joint task force to conduct combined operations at sea and ashore.

"It's a great honor to take part in these exercises," said Capt. Cathal O'Connor, Commander, Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN. "Exercises like Cobra Gold demonstrate our ability to operate forward and our readiness to execute any mission. At the same time, we strengthen the personal and professional relationships that enable our Naval forces to fight and win in a coalition environment. Because it's only through teamwork and regularly operating together that we fully harness the knowledge, talent and imagination that exist in this diverse multinational force."

Cobra Gold 2013, in its 32nd iteration, demonstrates U.S. commitment toward regional partnership, prosperity, and security in the Asia-Pacific region and showcases the Navy and Marine Corps team with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) embarked aboard the Bonhomme Richard ARG.

"These exercises emphasize working together for a common goal," said Col. John Merna, commanding officer, 31st MEU. "The events included in the exercise increase mission readiness in the Western Pacific and enable participating nations to be more capable in response to crises."

The U.S. and the Kingdom of Thailand have been working together for 180 years. CG 13 is the latest in a continuing series of exercises designed to promote peace and security in the Western Pacific.

Four Royal Thai Navy and Marine Corps officers have been embarked aboard Bonhomme Richard since Feb. 2 to assist with the planning of CG 13.

"It has been a pleasure having the Thai officers on board, they are both professional and knowledgeable," said Capt. Daniel Dusek, Bonhomme Richard's commanding officer. "The officers and crew of the Bonhomme Richard look forward to working closely with our Thai counterparts throughout the exercise continuing to build on an already strong regional partnership."

Commander Amphibious Squadron Eleven, 31st MEU and Bonhomme Richard ARG report to Commander, Amphibious Force 7th Fleet, Rear Adm. Jeffrey A. Harley, headquartered in White Beach, Okinawa, Japan.



Landing craft air cushion (LCAC) 47 approaches Hat Yao beach to offload Marine vehicles in preparation for exercise Cobra Gold 2013.



A dump truck, assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), is driven off of a Landing Craft Utility (LCU) during an off-load evolution from the USS Tortuga (LSD 46).

## Guardian Sailors Return to Sasebo

All crew members from the mine countermeasures ship USS Guardian have returned to the ship's homeport in Sasebo, Japan to be reunited with their families and continue training for future operations.

The crew was transferred from Guardian to U.S. vessels participating in the salvage and recovery efforts as a safety precaution following the grounding on Jan. 17.

The Ship's Commanding Officer and other technical experts from the crew remained on U.S. vessels near the Guardian to assist in the initial recovery and salvage efforts. As the operation to recover Guardian has moved into a salvage phase, the Commanding Officer and remaining crew members were no longer needed and were transferred to USS Mustin, with items and materials that could be safely removed from the ship, and returned to Sasebo on Feb. 8.



An LCU steams through Buckner Bay with supplies to on load for the 31st MEU. (MC3 Michael Achterling)

**On 15 March 1943,  
"by a stroke of  
Admiral King's pen,"  
the Southwest Pacific  
Force became the  
Seventh Fleet and its  
Amphibious Force  
became the VII  
Amphibious Force.**

**Morison, Samuel  
(1950) Breaking the  
Bismarcks Barrier  
Pg 130-131**



FC3 Carr and FC2 Stratton conduct maintenance on USS TORTUGA's Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) (MC3 Gregory Harden II)







# “Victory from the Sea”

Task Force 76

Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet

## Awards, SOQ, Retirements, Promotions and Arrivals

### Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Koichi Takagi LT Norlando Antonio  
LCDR Anthony Brinkley

### Joint Service Commendation Medal

PSC William Evans

### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

LT Joel Hammen LT Charles Jones  
MSgt Juanito Juliano LNI Na'eem Phillips  
AG1 Raymond Glass CSI Arlington Gella  
DC1 Nathan Laygo LCDR Steven Waggoner

### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

IT1 Shawn McDonald LS1 Emiljowel Orenca  
YN2 Andre Gore IT3 Brent Setterlund  
ET1 David Yatsu

### Flag Letter of Commendation

IT3 Marcus Perrin YN2 Andre Gore  
IS3 Steven Washington

### Good Conduct Awards

LNI Na'eem Phillips IT2 Zachary Young  
YN2 Andre Gore

### Retirements

CSI Arlington Gella - Dec. 2012  
LT Norlando Antonio - Jan. 2013  
LCDR Anthony Brinkley - Feb. 2013

### Sailor of the Quarter (1st Qtr)

Senior: YN1 Sheena S. Hunt  
Junior: CTR2 Ryan M. Schnitzler  
Blue Jacket: IT3 Bethany A. Dickson

### Legalman of the Year

LNI Na'eem Phillips

### Promotions

LT Julius Dabu YN1 William Hogan  
DC1 Nathan Laygo YN1 Nelida Legorreta  
IT1 Shawn McDonald IT1 Tyrone Wigfall  
IT2 Christian Anthony YN2 Ashli Defraties  
YN2 Andre Gore IT2 Zachary Young  
IT3 Brent Setterlund LCDR Shane Cook

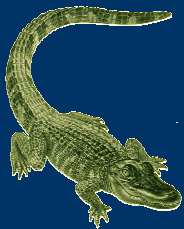
### Arrivals

November/December

LT Robert Spivey Sgt Matthew Foster  
YNC Dominic Gray LT Brian Wierzbicki  
MSgt Jean Ulceus

January/February

SA Patrick Beldon LCDR Brian Emory  
IT3 Jason Guilfoy IS3 Steven Washington  
AGC Aaron Wimberley ET1 David Yatsu  
LT Ronald Jenkins OSC Joshua Jester



## Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet Sailors Participate in Roadside Cleanup

Sailors from Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet and Fleet Activities Okinawa participated in a roadside cleanup project Jan. 25 near White Beach Naval Facility.

Participating Sailors picked up more than 40 bags of trash that accumulated in the tall grass along the seawall walking path and beach area under the overpass near Heshikiya Street and Route 239.

“All service members did an outstanding job,” said Chief Intelligence Specialist Stephanie Watson “everyone worked together to make this project a success.”

The U.S. has had a longstanding presence in this region and community service projects, such as this help to strengthen our relationship and underscore our com-

mitment to our host country here in Japan.

“City representatives were very happy,” said Mr. Shoji Kudaka, community relations coordinator, Fleet Activities Okinawa “the project went very well.”

## Family Readiness Group Activities

- Feb. 21, 6:30 Meeting/Potluck at Kadena, Chapel Two.
- Mar. 6 Lumpia Fundraising Event at CTF 76 Headquarters
- Mar 14 Volunteer opportunity on White Beach to prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt. (incentive: home-cooked meal)
- Mar. 16, 11:00 - 2:00 Easter Egg Hunt/Potluck. Keep your eyes open to purchase and donate hollow, plastic eggs.
- Look for upcoming bowling and Bunko events.

For more information, please contact us at [ctf76frg@gmail.com](mailto:ctf76frg@gmail.com) or check out our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTF76FRG/>

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